

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 226556
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S E C R E T STATE 226556

NODIS
EYE ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR CASTRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, PDIP, AR

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT VIDELA

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA, SEPTEMBER 5, AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE A FOLLOW-UP INQUIRY TO PRESIDENT VIDELA OR DR. YOFRE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, THE VICE PRESIDENT STRESSED-THAT WE WANT GOOD,RELATIONS BUT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE A CENTRAL CONCERN. WE WISHED TO WORK WITH ARGENTINA IN HAVING GOOD RELATIONS. IT WAS IMPORTANT
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THAT VIDELA RECEIVE THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC), ON TERMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMISSION. WE WOULD NOT LINK ARGENTINE ACTIONS WITH OUR OWN. PROGRESS ON CASES SUCH AS JACOBO TIMERMAN WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL.

3. PRESIDENT VIDELA STATED THAT HE FULLY CONCURS IN

PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE WESTERN WORLD MUST BE UNITED AND THE UNITED STATES MUST LEAD THE

WESTERN WORLD. ARGENTINA WAS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND NOT TROUBLED BY OBJECTIVE CRITICISM. HE WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BY CRITICISM WHICH HAD THE APPEARANCE OF INTERVENTION IN ARGENTINE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. SUCH CRITICISM HAD COMPELLED HIM TO POSTPONE AN INVITATION TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HIS CONCERN WAS THAT PROBLEMS IN THE RELATIONSHIP AT THE GOVERNMENT PLANE HAD BEEN RAISED TO THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC OR POPULAR ISSUES.

4. THE VICE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT, TO PUT RELATIONS ON A MORE POSITIVE COURSE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY COME TO ARGENTINA TO MEET WITH VIDELA OR A PERSON OF HIS CHOICE FOR A REVIEW OF OUR RELATIONS. VIDELA ASKED WHETHER THE VAKY VISIT WOULD BE AFTER THE IAHRC OR BEFORE. THE VICE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT IT BE SCHEDULED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. PRESIDENT VIDELA REVIEWED STEPS TAKEN BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT SINCE HIS LAST MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER (DURING THE PANAMA CANAL SIGNING), WHICH HE SAID SHOWED THAT THERE HAD BEEN EFFORTS BY HIS GOVERNMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. VIDELA CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD
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RECEIVE THE COMMISSION. HE SAID IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE OCTOBER 1, THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE HUMPHREY-KENNEDY AMENDMENT, BUT DID NOT THINK IT COULD BE DONE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15. (AT AN EARLIER POINT, HE SAID THAT HE COULD PERHAPS ARRANGE A VISIT OF THE COMMISSION BY MID-OCTOBER.) ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY COULD VISIT AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT. VIDELA SAID HE PREFERRED THAT VAKY VISIT ARGENTINA ONLY AND REQUESTED THAT THE USG LET HIM KNOW AHEAD OF TIME THE OBJECTIVES OF THE VAKY MISSION. THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID WE WOULD COMMUNICATE THESE.

6. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, THE VICE PRESIDENT NOTED THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE EX-IM BANK REACH A DECISION ON ALLIS-CHALMERS BY SEPTEMBER 15, THE DATE OF THE BIDS FOR THE YACYRETA POWER PROJECT. AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMMISSION'S VISIT BEFORE OCTOBER 1 MIGHT ENABLE US TO ACT ON A LETTER BY EX-IM IN SUPPORT OF THE ALLIS-CHALMERS BID BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15.

7. ACTION REQUESTED. VIDELA REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE INTENDS TO RECEIVE THE COMMISSION. YOU ARE RE-

QUESTED TO FOLLOW UP IN LOW KEY FASHION WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA HIMSELF, IF POSSIBLE, OR WITH YOFRE (WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING) MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT THE MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT TOOK PLACE; (2) WE WANT TO REITERATE THE U.S. DESIRE TO BRING U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS BACK TO THE STATE WHICH SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN TWO FRIENDLY NATIONS; (3) YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED TO BE IN TOUCH IN ORDER TO FOLLOW UP ON THE MONDALE-VIDELA CONVERSATIONS; (4) WE ARE NOW TAKING A LOOK AT WHERE WE STAND AS A PRELUDE TO THE TRIP TO ARGENTINA BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY WHICH WAS DISCUSSED IN ROME; AND (5) NOW THAT VIDELA IS BACK, DOES HE HAVE A CLEAR VIEW OF THE TIMETABLE WHICH MIGHT BE LIKELY FOR BOTH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION VISIT AND
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THE VAKY TRIP?

CHRISTOPHER

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